GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7240
ANSWERED ON:12.05.2000
TOBACCO BOARD
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers registered with the Tobacco Board in the country, State-wise;

(b) the production of tobacco during 1998-99 and 1999-2000, State-wise;

(c) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to improve the quality of such tobacco grown in the country;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the results of such efforts?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) The number of farmers registered with the Tobacco Board in the country, State-wise (in 1999-2000 seasons) are:

States Andhra Pradesh Maharashtra Orissa Karnataka Total

No.of farmers 44436 60 128 18427 63051

(b) Corresponding production of tobacco for each state during the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are follows:-

Name of the State Estimated Production (M. Kgs)

1997-98 1998-99 1999-2000(P)

Andhra Pradesh 130.95 148.81 137.98
Maharashtra 0.21 0.24 0.20
Orissa 0.45 0.55 0.50
Karnataka 45.64 54.89 48.00

Total 177.25 204.49 186.68

c) Yes, Sir.

d) Steps taken by Tobacco Board to improve yields and quality of FCV tobacco in India include:-

(i) Supply of inputs like, genuine and approved seeds, fertilizers, irrigation equipment, pesticides, suckericides, coal, briquettes, tarpaulins, and spraying equipment to tobacco farmers.

(ii) Training programmes/meetings for farmers to adopt improved varieties and package of practices recommended by C.T.R.I.

(iii) Typing up bank loans for growers for tobacco production.

(iv) Supply of coal and briquettes at the barn site to the needy growers for curing of tobacco and subsidies for roof insulation of barns to economise curing costs, and encouraging farmers to adopt improved design of furnace to save fuel for curing of tobacco.

(v) Analysis of soil and water samples and advising farmers on their suitably and fertilizer requirement.

(vi) Coordination with CTRI in popularising high yielding disease-resistant varieties through demonstration trials.

(vii) Distribution of booklets and pamphlets on tobacco cultivation to all farmers in the local language.

(viii) Maintaining constant watch on pesticide residues on tobacco leaf through analysis on leaf samples and undertaking measures to reduce the residue levels by properly educating the farmers.

(ix) Encouraging farmers to go for water harvest structures like micro-farm ponds and check dams for providing life saving irrigation to tobacco crop.

(e) Major research efforts of CTRI and collaborative extension efforts of Board and CTRI in transferring the modern technologies to FCV tobacco growers resulted in improvement of yields from 50 kg/ha with 25% to 30% of bright grades in 1960`s to 1600 to 1800 kg/ha with 60% to 70% of bright grades at present.